(c) In the State of Maharashtra employment in organised sector has increased in the Private Sector whereas the employment in the Public Sector has shown declining trend between 2004 to 2005 as per latest available data. Detailed information for All India and Maharashtra is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) Approach paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million new work opportunities. Additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in services and manufacturing sectors and policy initiatives need to support this. Measures would need to be taken in the 11th Plan to bost, in particular, labour intentive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear and textiles, and service sector such as tourism and construction.

Employment figures for All India and Maharashtra

	Employment as on 31st March					
	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	
Year	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
All India Total	18196.7	18006.6	8246.0	8451.8	26442.7	26458.4
Maharashtra State	2171.6	2137.6	1392.3	1403.3	3563.9	3540.9

Non-recruitment by BPO/IT companies through employment exchange

976. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether BPO, IT companies do not recruit the candidates registered with employment exchanges and recruit candidates from their own source;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to make it compulsory for all IT enabled companies to recruit candidates, at least to a given percentage, through employment exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Recruitment of candidates by Private sector through Employment Exchanges is not mandatory as such employers are free to use any convenient source of recruitment.

(b) to (d) There is no such proposal to make it compulsory for all IT Companies to recruit candidates through Employment Exchanges.

Child labour in the country

†977. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labourers in the country;

(b) the details of effective steps taken by Government for eradication of child labourer;

(c) whether child labourer projects have been set up by Government; and

(d) if so, the number and details of child labourers benefited therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of number of child labour in the country. As per Census 2001, the number of child labourers in the country is 1.26 crore.

(b) to (d) In order to eliminate child labour, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) Scheme. The NCLP Scheme envisages a sequential approach for the elimination of child labour starting with children working in most hazardous occupations to covering all forms of child labour. The Scheme of NCLP is being implemented in 250 districts of 20 States of the country. Under the scheme, children

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.